

3 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Antarctica Project - Lt. Hampton

DOCUMENT NO. _____
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 3 0
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
 AUTH: NR TO-2
 27 NOV 1980 REVIEW

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1. A call was received on Tuesday morning, 1 November, from Lt. Hampton, aide to Admiral Byrd. He expressed a desire to attend the NIS Committee Meeting scheduled for that morning and thought that the Antarctica Project would be discussed. I informed him that the meeting had been postponed.

2. He then stated that there was another matter that he wanted to discuss. He said that for purposes of briefing Adm. Byrd on the NIS on the Antarctica Project he was very desirous of obtaining information on the people who were actually working on the project in the various agencies. He stated that he would like to have the number of people working on this project in the various agencies, their names, and also information as to whether any of them had participated in any of the expeditions to the Antarctica. He advised further that he had discussed this briefly with Capt. Styles of Navy but had not received any definite commitment from him. He asked whether it would be more desirable to obtain that information from the various NIS Committee Members or whether a direct approach to the agencies would be more appropriate.

3. I informed Lt. Hampton that the information he was seeking appeared to be Navy's concern with the internal affairs of the agencies engaged in the project and that we had never made it a practice to request such information, primarily because I did not feel that we had any authority to get into matters of this kind. I pointed out that the several agencies engaged in this project had production responsibility for the elements involved by National Security Council Directive and that as coordinators of the program CIA and this Office had no jurisdiction over the working groups employed by the agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities. To sum it up, I told him that I did not feel that it was a matter for the Committee or for this Office to get into, and that a direct approach to the agencies seemed to be the proper one. I stated, however, that I would discuss it with the several Committee members involved and obtain their views.

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4. I first called for Capt. Styles, but in his absence Cmdr. Madden said that he was aware of Lt. Hampton's conversation with Capt. Styles, and he informed me that Capt. Styles took a rather dim view of Lt. Hampton's request for information on the capabilities they were assigning to the project and the qualifications of the people engaged in it. Cmdr. Madden said he would discuss it further with Capt. Styles when he returns and call me back which he did, and said that Capt. Styles agreed that it was not a Committee matter and that any such request from Lt. Hampton's office should be made directly to Navy and that they would determine what action they wanted to take on it.

5. I also discussed it with Dan Clinton and he stated that he also felt that it was certainly not a Committee matter and that Lt. Hampton should be referred directly to the various coordinators in the agencies for the type of information that he was requesting. I passed this information on to [] and he agreed that if Lt. Hampton called he would discuss the matter with him and cooperate in complying with any reasonable request.

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6. Several more calls from Lt. Hampton were received, and I advised him that the appropriate approach seemed to be to the agencies concerned, which he said he would do. I advised Clinton and [] of this so that they are awaiting his call.

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7. I have a feeling that Adm. Byrd may have gotten wind of the fact that [] has had a hand in some of the arrangements for the NIS project and that he is trying to get a check on whether or not [] and any others who may have feelings similar to [] are going to have a part in preparing the NIS. In the event he finds that [] or any others who are personally nongrata to him are involved, he will probably be distrustful of anything that appears in the NIS. However, this is just a personal view.

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R. H. BOBERG

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